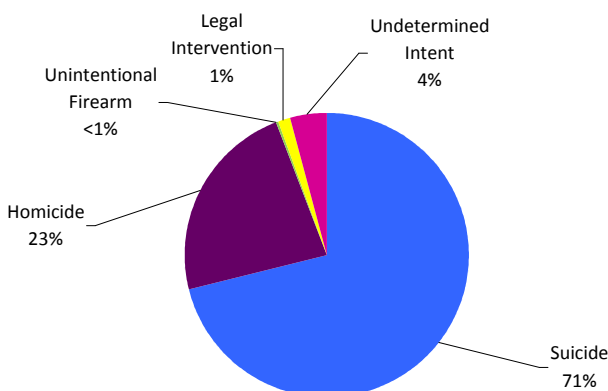


VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA: BUNCOMBE COUNTY INCIDENTS: 2004-2009

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded state-wide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in North Carolina resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. All deaths reported in this document are based on location of *occurrence* rather than residence and, instead of a rate, the occurrent ratio is reported. This statistic is derived from the total number of violent deaths resulting from injuries in a specified geographic region divided by the number of residents in this region. This document summarizes all fatal injuries from violence that occurred in Buncombe County for the years 2004 through 2009.

Manner of Death: Buncombe County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2004-2009*



*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

• For the years 2004-2009, there were 288 violent deaths from injuries sustained in Buncombe County. Of these 288 deaths, 280 were North Carolina residents (97 %) and 262 were Buncombe County residents (91 %).

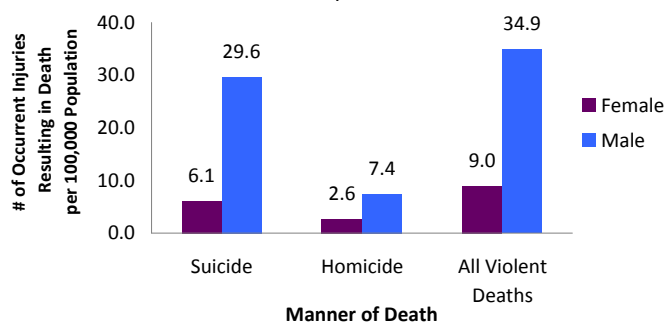
• There were 205 suicides (71 %), 66 homicides (23 %), one unintentional firearm death (<1 %), four deaths from legal interventions (1 %) and 12 deaths of undetermined intent (4 %).

• In Buncombe County, the suicide ratio was 4.9 times higher in males than females, and the homicide ratio was 2.8 times higher in males than females .

• Patterns of suicide and homicide differed by race. Suicide victims were more likely to be white than black. Whites had 17.9 suicides per 100,000 population versus 9.2 suicides per 100,000 population in blacks. The 'Other Race' category had only three deaths.

• In contrast, blacks had 12.8 homicides per 100,000 population as opposed to whites who had 4.2 homicides per 100,000 population. The 'Other Race' category had only two deaths.

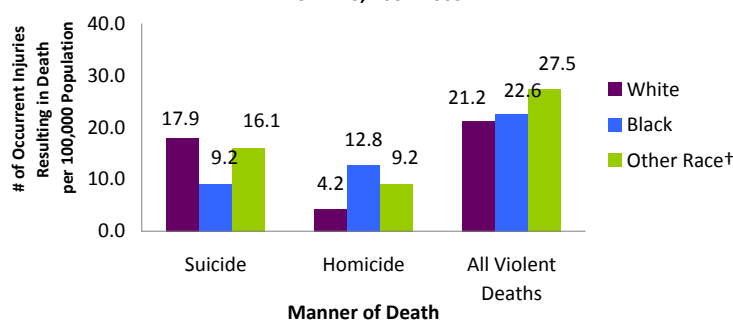
Manner of Death by Sex: Buncombe County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2004-2009*



*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

†Other race refers to American Indians, Asians, etc. Rates might be unstable due to small size.

Manner of Death by Race: Buncombe County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2004-2009*



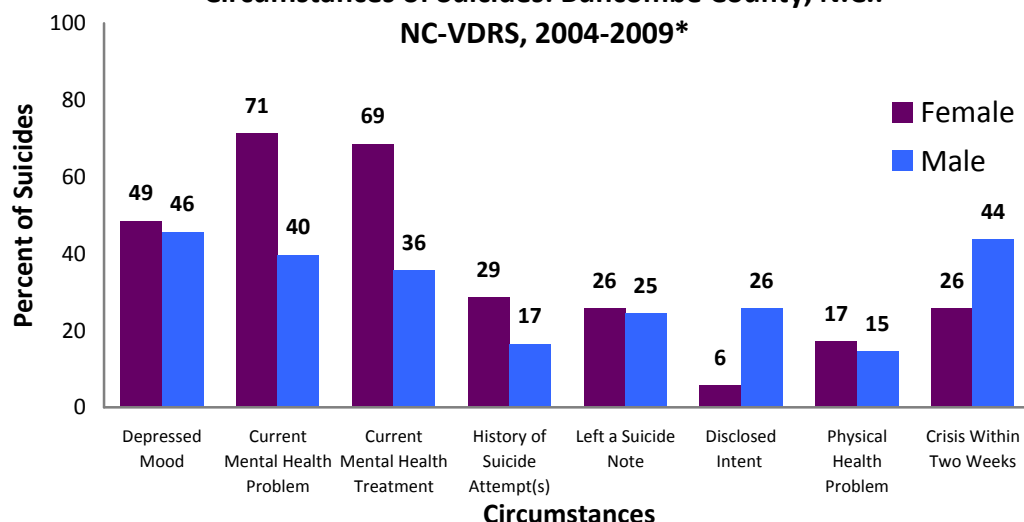
- Suicides and homicides displayed dissimilar age patterns. Homicides peaked at 18.1 homicides per 100,000 population among infants (<1 yr). Suicide (25.0 per 100,000) peaked among those 35 to 44.

- Most homicides (48 %) and suicides (54 %) were committed using firearms.

- Suspicion of intoxication was reported in 34 percent of homicides and 28 percent of suicides.

- For homicide incidents where one or more suspects were identified, the relationship of the victim to the suspect was known (current or former spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend, family, friend or acquaintance) more frequently for female (72 %) than male (58 %) victims.

Circumstances of Suicides: Buncombe County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2004-2009*



*Based on the county of injury occurrence. Ninetypercent of males and 92 percent of females had circumstance information.

- Forty-six percent of Buncombe County suicides with circumstance information were characterized as being currently depressed.

- Seventy-one percent of female victims and 40 percent of male victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

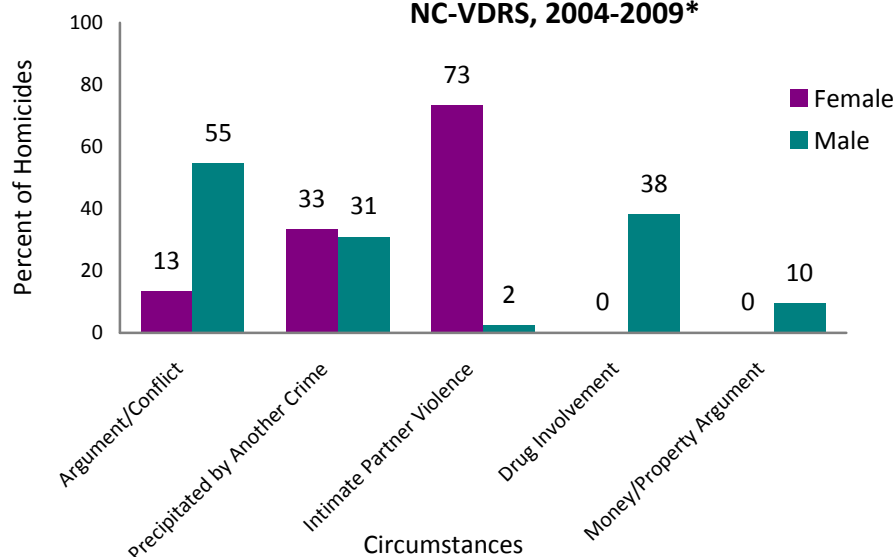
- Females (29 %) were more likely to have attempted suicide in the past compared to males (17 %).

- Arguments or conflicts were more likely to be a contributing factor for male homicides (55 %) than female homicides (13 %).

- Thirty-three percent of female homicides and 31 percent of male homicides were precipitated by another crime such as robbery, burglary or drug trafficking.

- Intimate partner violence was a contributing factor in 73 percent of female homicides, but only 2 percent of male homicides.

Circumstances of Homicides: Buncombe County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2004-2009*



*Based on the county of injury occurrence. Eighty-eight percent of males and 83 percent of females had circumstance information.

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement 5U17/CE423098-09 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

N.C. Division of Public Health / www.publichealth.nc.gov / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425

N.C. Violent Death Reporting System / 919-707-5432

State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services / www.ncdhhs.gov

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